

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 242823

10 L
ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OMB-01 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 DHA-02

MC-02 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

EB-07 H-02 /064 R

DRAFTED BY PM/SAS:DJJAMES;ARA/CEN/N:GAGOWEN
APPROVED BY ARA:HWSHLAUDEMAN
ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN (DRAFT)
OMB:JEISENHOOR (DRAFT)
ACDA:NMSMITH (SUBS)
TREAS:GNENSEL (DRAFT)
D/HA:KHILL (SUBS)

----- 117143

R 300230Z SEP 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
INFO SECDEF/OASD/ISA
DA WASHDC/DALO-ILE
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 242823

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MCAP, PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: SALE OF M-16'S TO GON

REFS: (A) MANAGUA 4534, (B) MANAGUA 4395, (C) MANAGUA 4141,
(D) STATE 206945, (E) STATE 189779, (F) STATE 149438

1. DEPARTMENT HAS NOW APPROVED TWO EXPORT LICENSES
(MC 13533 AND MC 23719) REQUESTED BY COLT INDUSTRIES FOR
COMMERCIAL SALE TO GON OF 6,000 M-16A1 RIFLES AND RELATED
SPARE PARTS (PLUS 6,000 BAYONETS AND 12,000 EXTRA MAGAZINES).
AS NOTED IN REFTELS D AND E, DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS 6,000
M-16'S AS MAXIMUM NUMBER THAT CAN BE JUSTIFIED MILITARILY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 242823

FOR NICARAGUA. THEREFORE, DEPARTMENT WILL NOT APPROVE

ANY SUBSEQUENT GON PURCHASE OF M-16'S THROUGH EITHER FMS OR COMMERCIAL CHANNELS.

2. DEPARTMENT IS ALSO AUTHORIZING DOD TO PREPARE LETTERS OF OFFER (LOA) FOR FMS SALE TO GON OF 510 M-60 MACHINE GUNS, WITH CONCURRENT AMMUNITION, 150 M203 GRENADE LAUNCHERS, AND CONCURRENT AMMUNITION FOR ABOVE-MENTIONED 6,000 M-16 RIFLES.

3. DEPARTMENT IS AUTHORIZING USE OF FY 1976 FMS FINANCING FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT LISTED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 ABOVE WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FUTURE AMMUNITION AND SPARE PARTS

PURCHASES FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR FMS FINANCING.

4. THESE DECISIONS BASED ON OUR PERCEPTION THAT PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS NOW BEEN MADE FULLY COGNIZANT OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH USG REGARDS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA AS MAJOR FACTOR AFFECTING OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THIS MESSAGE CONVEYED TO HIM MOST RECENTLY BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN IN MANAGUA SEPTEMBER 18 (REFTEL B). DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO NOTED EVIDENCE THAT GON APPEARS TO HAVE UNDERTAKEN STEPS TO BRING NATIONAL GUARD FORCES IN THE FIELD UNDER TIGHTER CONTROL SINCE MID-YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO APPROACHES BY EMBASSY AND NICARAGUAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY (REFTELS A AND C). NONETHELESS, HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE CAREFUL SCRUTINY BY EMBASSY.

5. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO REITERATE POINT MADE IN REFTEL F CONCERNING RELATIONSHIP OF THESE TRANSACTIONS TO SECTION 660 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. SPECIFICALLY, WHILE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY SECTION 660 APPLY TECHNICALLY TO MAP GRANT MATERIEL AND IMET, FMS FINANCING FOR WEAPONS SUPPLIED TO POLICE UNITS WOULD BE VIEWED BY CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS AS VIOLATION OF SPIRIT OF LAW. SIMILARLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD NOT APPROVE COMMERCIAL EXPORT LICENSES FOR M-16'S OR M-60'S FOR POLICE USE. GON SHOULD BE MADE AWARE THAT USE OF THESE WEAPONS TO EQUIP REGULAR POLICE UNITS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WOULD PROVOKE STRONG CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM AND WOULD LIKELY HAVE DAMAGING EFFECT ON OUR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 242823

MUTUAL INTERESTS. THEREFORE, EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM GON THAT APPROVAL OF THESE TRANSACTIONS IS BASED ON OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE WEAPONS WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THE NATIONAL GUARD FOR CONVENTIONAL MILITARY PURPOSES, AS STATED IN SECTION FOUR OF THE ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF 1976, AND WILL NOT BE PROVIDED TO MANAGUA POLICE COMPANY, OR DEPARTMENTAL POLICE PLATOONS, OR DEPARTMENTAL POST PLATOONS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cahillha
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE242823
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DJJAMES;ARA/CEN/N:GAGOWEN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760370-0373
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976091/aaaaaavh.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MANAGUA 4534, 76 MANAGUA 4395, 76 MANAGUA 4141, 76 STATE 206945, 76 STATE 189779, 76 STATE 149438
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SALE OF M-16'S TO GON
TAGS: MASS, MCAP, PFOR, NU
To: MANAGUA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006